

JAMAICA

NEWS



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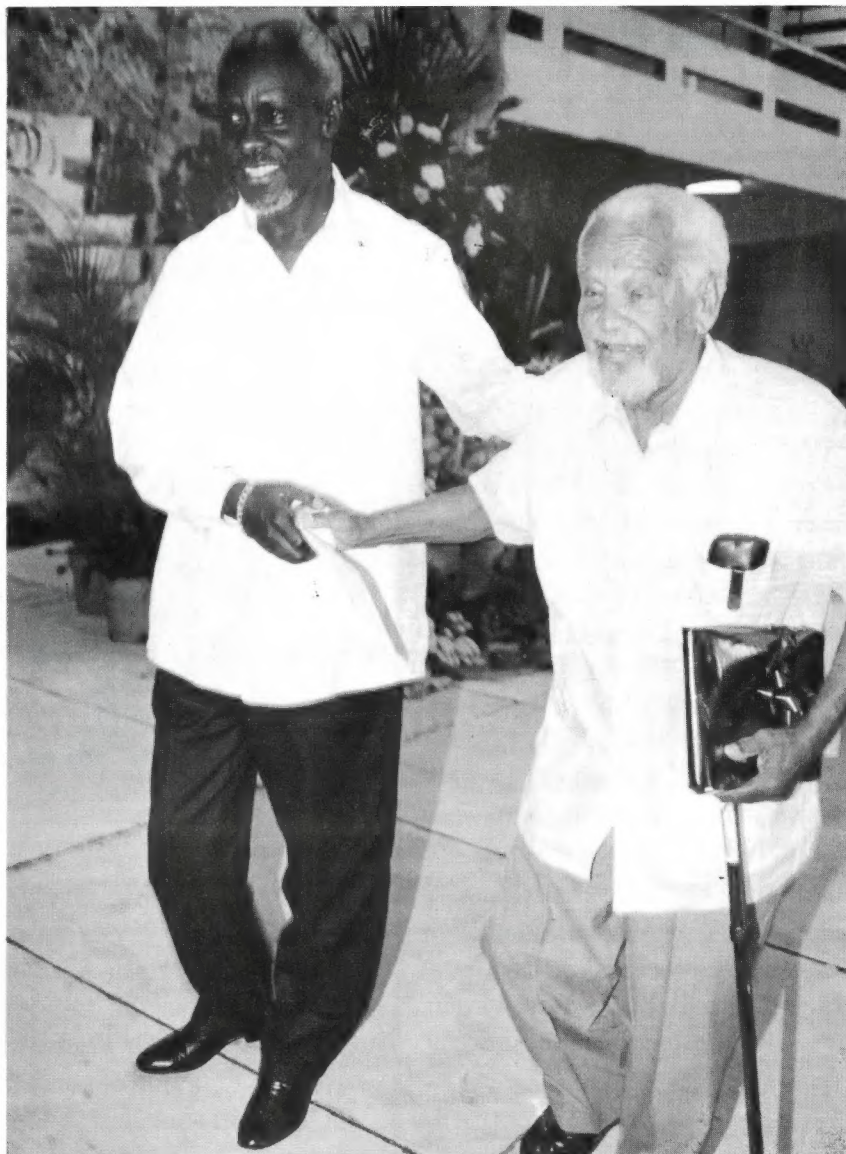
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COMRADE-IN-ARMS: Prime Minister P.J. Patterson assists former Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) Donald Webb, to his seat, after he was honoured by the JAS at a Farmers' Forum held at the National Arena in March. Mr. Webb was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the development of agriculture.



Editorial

Dear Friends!

Easter, one of the richest periods of symbolism on the Christian calendar, commemorates Christ's temptation, death and resurrection. During the 40-day lenten period, which culminates at Easter, Christians the world over avoid all festivities and become penitent and forgiving to their fellowmen.

The traditional Jamaican Easter celebration starts on Good Friday. This day is supposed to be one of mourning, and many spend the day in worship. Bun and cheese and fried fish are the main foods associated with this period. One of the practices which still remains, a legacy of our African ancestry, is the 'setting' of the white of an egg by 5 o'clock on Good Friday morning. It is believed that once the rays of the sun settle on the container with the egg (usually a clear glass), the image seen, is a prediction of one's future. For example, a ship means travel; a veil, marriage.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Easter Monday, is recreation day; picnics, beach trips and other similar activities are favoured. For the last eight years, carnival has become synonymous with these festivities, culminating on the following Sunday.

For those who are able to keep up with the tradition of spice bun and cheese, we have some Easter recipes to tantalize the palette. But remember home is where the real flavour is. May you have an enjoyable and peaceful Easter holiday.

Till nex' time, walk good.



CARICOM LINKS

The Ninth Inter-Sessional Meeting of CARICOM Heads of Government was held in Grenada from March 2 to 3.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, in addressing his colleagues, urged them to get involved in the process of negotiating a successor agreement to the 1975 Lome Convention and in establishing a Free Trade Area of the Americas by 2005.

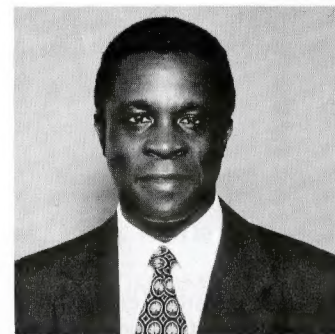
He also asked that the Region press ahead with settling outstanding issues regarding the CARICOM Single Market.

"I urge that these areas be speedily concluded before we launch wider negotiations on free trade arrangements with those outside the region," the former CARICOM Chairman said.

Prime Minister Patterson noted that there was scope for greater collaboration between CARICOM member states on the matter of public broadcasting to ensure that educational

programmes reach all segments of their populations. He reported that the Jamaican Government had recently brought before Parliament, a discussion Paper on a Public Service Broadcasting System, designed to improve the dissemination of educational programmes.

The Caribbean Community, Mr. Patterson noted, recorded a number of positive achievements in 1997, especially with respect to work



Chairman Dr. Keith Mitchell

on amending the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which gave effect to CARICOM.

He pledged the support of the Government and people of Jamaica to the new CARICOM Chairman, Grenada's Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell.

Construction of permanent headquarters for CARICOM is to begin this year. Secretary General of the Community, Edwin Carrington, reported that the construction of the complex would enhance the institution's efficiency and preparedness to enter the 21st century.

He observed that the location of the permanent headquarters would be ideal, in close proximity to the University of Guyana and the Ogle airport, which is to be upgraded to a municipal airport.

Millions of dollars for citrus and sugar industries

Prime Minister Patterson: "It must become more efficient...more productive"

Some 3,000 hectares of citrus are to be replanted under a US\$6.6 billion programme over the next seven years, to replace plants destroyed or damaged by the dreaded citrus tristeza virus.

Prime Minister P.J. Patterson made this announcement as he addressed farmers from across the island who attended the National Farmers' Forum organised by the Jamaica Agricultural Society at the National Arena in March.

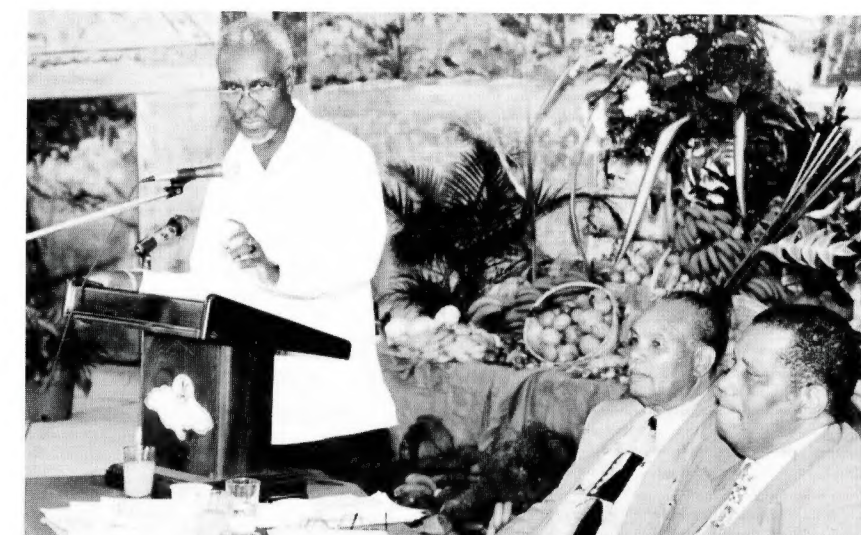
Expenditure

The planned expenditure of US\$6.6 billion on citrus is in addition to a sum of J\$3.6 billion, which has been appropriated by Government to the sugar industry, to facilitate the rapid replanting of sugar cane fields after extensive damage by the recent drought, and to finance the rationalisation of the island's sugar factories.

Growth Areas

Mr. Patterson said that agriculture is one of the growth areas identified in the National Industrial Policy and despite the present problems, the sector continues to maintain its potential for major development.

The sector must become competitive, warned the Prime Minister, "It must become more



Some 3,000 hectares of citrus are to be replanted under a US\$6.6 million programme over the next seven years, to replace plants destroyed or damaged by the dreaded citrus tristeza virus.

efficient and it has to become more productive," and with changes in the economic environment, both nationally and internationally, farmers need to understand that no sector in any country can operate in the belief

that it will continue to enjoy protection in its domestic market.

He added that as the barriers to protectionism come down, "domestic producers have to provide consumers with quality products at reasonable prices."

DID YOU KNOW

- There are eight sugar factories operating in Jamaica today, with a combined production capacity of 32,500 tonnes of sugar per annum.
- At present sugar is the fourth largest earner of foreign exchange behind bauxite/alumina, tourism and remittances.
- Over 40,000 Jamaicans are employed in this industry.

Know your Ministries

(Continued from previous issues)

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

85 Hagley Park Road
Kingston
Telephone: 754-0996
Fax: 960-0725

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- The Fire Services
- Solid Waste Management
- Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC)
- Parish Councils
- Poor Relief
- Youth Development
- The Social Development Commission
- Special commemorative events and anniversaries
- Local Government Reform
- Jamaica Cultural Development Commission

MINISTRY OF WATER

Island Life Building
6 St. Lucia Avenue
Kingston 5
Telephone: 754-0973-4
Fax: 754-0975

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- National Irrigation Commission
- Water Resources Authority
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
- Meteorological Services
- Carib Engineering Corporation

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND WORKS

140 Maxfield Avenue
Kingston 10
Telephone: 926-3111-9
Fax: 929-2996

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Public Transportation
- Airports and Air Transport
- Civil Aviation
- Sea Ports
- Road Traffic Act
- Licensing Authority
- Main roads
- Flood Water Control
- Land Reclamation
- Sandy Gully Drainage System
- Explosives and other dangerous substances

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TECHNOLOGY

36 Trafalgar Road
Kingston 10
Telephone: 929-8990-9
Fax: 929-8103

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop global competitiveness by facilitating and stimulating:

- domestic and international commerce;
- cutting edge technology and communications;
- fair competition and trade;
- consumer awareness and protection;
- scientific research and applying the results to increased economic activity.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

2 National Heroes Circle,
Kingston 4
Telephone: 922-1400-9
Fax: 926-1837

MISSION STATEMENT

To establish an effective system of human development for Jamaica, which harmonizes our educational and cultural resources so that:

- individual needs and aspirations are met;
- positive human values are maintained; and
- the social, cultural and economic development of the nation is enhanced.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Oceana Building
2 King Street
Kingston
Telephone: 967-1100-1, 3& 5
Fax: 967-1284

MISSION STATEMENT

- To promote the physical and emotional well-being and enhance the quality of life of the Jamaican people by empowering individuals and communities;
- To ensure access to adequate health care through the provision of cost effective, promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

More houses to be built in St. Catherine

A model unit at Angels Estates, St. Catherine, where a total of 500 houses are to be built by March 1999, was officially opened on February 26, 1998.

The project, which comprises two phases, is a partnership between the Ministry of Environment and Housing and New Era Homes Jamaica Limited, the local arm of a Canadian company. In phase one, 250 units were built and these have been sold. About 500 persons are on a waiting list to acquire the units that will be constructed in the second phase.

Phase one comprises 174 two-bedroom units that cost just over \$1.5

million and 76 one-bedroom units valued at \$1.36 million. Phase one is scheduled for completion in August of this year.

The second phase is to comprise 112 two-bedroom semi-detached units, 64 two-bedroom detached houses, 40 town houses, a playing field and a day care centre. Each unit is sited on about 290 square metres of land.

The estimated cost of the first phase of the project is J\$410 million and that of the overall project is J\$800 million.



Minister Easton Douglas (l) greets the Canadian Ambassador Gavin Stewart at the official opening of Angels Estate in St. Catherine.

HELPLINE...



It is now much easier to import a motor vehicle into the island. However, the following documents must be in place to expedite the process.

IMPORT LICENCE: Issued by the Trade Board Limited, authorizing the importation of the motor vehicle.
Telephone: 876-969-0883 or 969-0478.

TITLE: A document issued to the owner of the vehicle by the Government of the country where the vehicle was purchased.

BILL OF LADING/ORDER: Obtained from the shipping agent with information about the particulars of the vehicles, the date it landed in the island and the port of entry.

INVOICE: For a new motor vehicle (that is, a vehicle under 3,000 miles) an invoice from the supplier is required.

BILL OF SIGHT: This is a document on which details of the motor vehicle being imported are recorded. It is prepared and signed by the owner or broker and certified by Customs.

TAX COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE (TCC) — Obtained from the Revenue Board.
Telephone: 922-8691-4, 922-1745-6.

IMPORT ENTRY - C78: This is the primary import document on which all particulars of the motor vehicle, the name of the importer, shipping information and the duties paid, are recorded. It is completed by the broker and submitted to Customs. **Only licensed customs brokers should complete this form.**

Jamaica is Seabed site

Conference Centre building meets headquarters requirements

The site of the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) will be located in the Block 11 Building of the Conference Centre Complex in Kingston, which is the current location of the Interim Headquarters.

In a Ministerial Statement in the House of Representatives recently, Hon. Seymour Mullings, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, said the building will be refurbished and offered as the ISA's permanent headquarters.

A Commission, established in May 1997 to recommend the site, presented its report on July 8, 1997, after examining and considering all sites. It also took into consideration the interests and obligations of Jamaica as a country and the requirements for the efficient functioning of the

Authority as an international organisation.



The Jamaica Conference Centre — home of the International Seabed Authority.

In selecting the site, the Commission was guided by:

- room for expansion of the Authority;
- access to adequate infrastructure;

- access to a reliable telecommunications system;
- adequate educational facilities at all levels;
- availability of the most up-to-date health facilities;
- a first rate international airport;
- easy access to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to foreign missions; and
- the need for economy so as to minimise the cost to State Parties.

The International Seabed Authority was established in 1994 to monitor the mining of resources such as minerals and oil deposits found in the deep seabed.

The ISA is the first major United Nations institution to be established in Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

The National Flag

The National Flag, first raised on Independence Day, August 6, 1962, signified the birth of our nation.

The flag brings forth memories of past achievements and inspires toward further successes. It is flown on many triumphant occasions, showing the pride that Jamaicans have in their country and in the flag itself.

The Jamaican Flag should never be allowed to touch the ground or floor, nor should it be flown or used for purely decorative

purposes on anything that is for temporary use and likely to be discarded, except on State occasions.

The Flag should never be smaller than any other Flag flown at the same time.

When the Flag becomes worn and must be replaced, it should be burnt and not used for any purpose other than that for which it was designed.

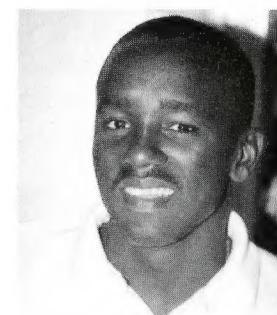
No other flag should be placed above or to the right of the Jamaican Flag, except at foreign

Embassies, Consulates and Missions.

Except at foreign embassies, consulates and missions, no foreign flags may be flown publicly, unless the Flag of Jamaica is also flown.

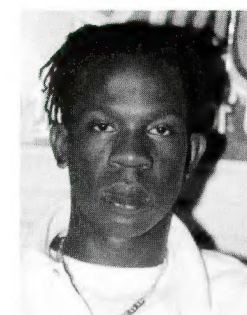
The Flag, when carried in procession with another flag or flags, should be on the marching right or, if there is a line of flags, in front of the centre of that line.

Profiles on the Reggae Boyz



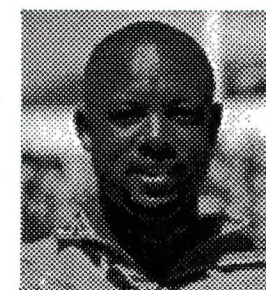
LINVAL DIXON

Born on September 14, 1971, he made his debut in 1991. His most memorable game was the World Cup qualifying match in 1996, Jamaica vs Honduras. He is a member of the Hazard Football Club. He is 6'.



IAN GOODISON

Born on November 21, 1972, he made his debut in 1996. His most memorable game was in 1996, Jamaica vs Mexico World Cup Qualifier at the National Stadium. He is a member of the Olympic Gardens Football Club. He is 6' 3".



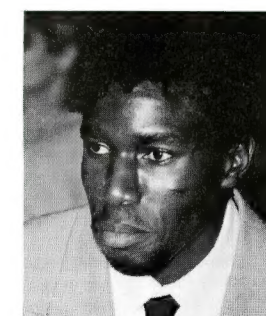
ALTIMONT BUTLER

Born on July 21, 1968. This midfielder made his debut in 1987. His most memorable game was in 1996, Jamaica vs St. Martin. He is a member of Colorado Crew, USA. He is 5' 10".



PETER CARGILL

Born on March 2, 1964, this midfielder made his debut in 1984. He has been capped forty-nine times. He is a member of the Harbour View Football Club. He is 5' 9".



THEODORE WHITMORE

Born on August 5, 1975, this midfielder made his debut in 1993. His most memorable game was the Jamaica vs All African XI at National Stadium in 1994. He is 6' 2 1/2".



WALTER BOYD

Born on January 1, 1972, this forward made his debut in 1991. His most memorable game was Jamaica vs Mexico in 1996. He is a member of the Arnett Gardens Football Club. He is 5' 11".

Easter Recipes

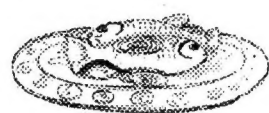


EASTER SPICE BUN

- 3 cups flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk or wine
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1 tsp. lime juice
- pinch of salt

1. Preheat oven to 350 °F about 15 minutes.
2. Beat egg. Add sugar, then melted butter and 1 cup milk or wine.
3. Pour into dry ingredients and beat until smooth.
4. Add raisins.
5. Pour into lined and greased loaf tin and bake for approximately 1 hour.
6. As soon as bun is done, make a glaze using 1/2 cup brown sugar and 1/2 cup water. Boil until thick, spread on bun and pop back in oven for about 5 minutes.

Yields 1 loaf



ESCOVEITCHED FISH

Escoveitched fish is very popular in Jamaica and is eaten from morning until night, all over the island. Nearly any fish that swims in our waters can be subjected to this treatment. The fish is cooked and pickled in a tasty sauce of vinegar and spices and garnished with onion, chocho, carrot etc. Small whole fish, sliced fish, or sprat can be served for breakfast, lunch, dinner or as hors d'oeuvres.

- 2 lb. fish
- 1/4 cup flour
- oil for frying

Escoveitch Sauce

- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 cup water
- pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. sugar
- 1 cup julienne strips of chochos and carrots
- 2-3 medium size onions, cut into onion rings
- hot pepper to taste
- 6 pimento grains

1. Prepare fish for frying.
2. Lightly dust with flour.
3. Fry fish in 1/2 inch deep oil.
4. As soon as flesh is opaque, fish is ready. Set aside.
5. Boil 1 part of water and 1 part of vinegar with a pinch of salt and a teaspoon of sugar.
6. Add julienne strips of chocho, carrots, hot pepper to taste, some pimento grains and onion rings.
7. As soon as liquid boils, pour over fried fish. This is done the day before it is eaten, and it is not kept in the refrigerator.

Serve 4-6

Taken from 'The Real Taste of Jamaica'
— Enid Donaldson

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Life is going to be a challenge. There will be rough times, difficult situations, things to fall into, major obstacles, hurdles, stumbling blocks, forks in the road, knives in the back, mountains to climb, things to get over, oppositions to resolve, unpleasantness to face, feelings to understand, disappointments to accept, mysteries to solve, wonders to unfold and promises to keep to yourself. The moment you give up on doing, it will never get done.

From: Acts of Faith -
Iyanla Vanzant



Life has two rules:
number 1 — Never quit;
number 2 — Always remember rule number 1.

Duke Ellington

INTERESTING PLACE NAMES

Alley (also called "The Alley")

First known as Withywood. Alley was originally a part of the parish of Vere. The area took its name from the Alley Church which is situated there.



I-No-Call-You-No-Come: This name reflects the attitude of the Maroons during their early years. Visitors were not generally encouraged and if the leader did not sanction someone's entrance, he was led through the most tortuous routes, in the hope that this would lessen his curiosity.

Here and There

LONDON



High Commissioner Derick Heaven shares a moment with LaDonna, Miss Jamaica UK 1997 when they met at the High Commissioner's London office recently. LaDonna is of Jamaican parentage and will shortly be taking up her prize trip to Jamaica.



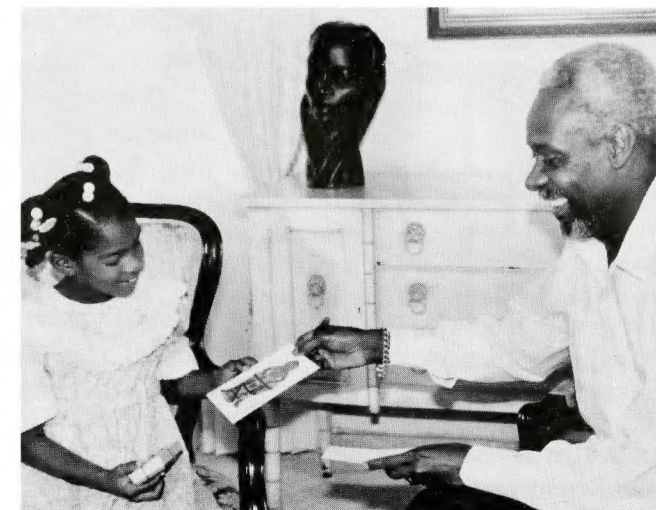
Mrs. Daphne Marches, who has recently been given an MBE Award from Her Majesty the Queen, for outstanding service to the community.

LONDON



High Commissioner Derick Heaven, joins hands with Reggae stars (l to r) Mikey General, Sizzla and Luciano, at the press briefing to launch their Hail Kings of Glory '98 tour of Britain. The function was held on board a riverboat on the River Thames on Friday, February 27, 1998.

JAMAICA



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson received a courtesy call from Sharlene Rhodd, winner of JIS 'Aspects of Our Heritage' Poster Competition, prior to her departure to Cuba — an additional prize to the Prime Minister's Special Award.

The special days of Easter

When one thinks of the Easter season, special days immediately come to mind.

However, one may wonder where these days originated and what they actually mean.

SHROVE TUESDAY

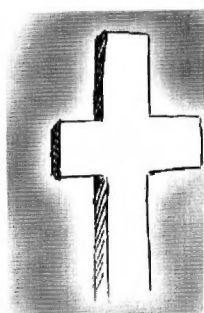
This is the Tuesday immediately before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The name shrove or shrovidence is derived from the word shrive, meaning "to give confession".

It is called Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday by the French and is Fastnacht to the Germans.

Shrove Tuesday is also sometimes called Doughnut and Pancake Tuesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday dates from, at least, the 18th Century. On this day,



faithful Roman Catholics were asked to approach the altar before Mass and the priest would dip his finger in previously blessed ashes and make the sign of the cross on their foreheads. This signified that the faithful



EASTER SUNDAY

A day of jubilation in the Christian Church. It marks the resurrection of Christ from the dead. Bearing the name of the season, it marks the beginning of the Easter "feast" and is celebrated on the Sunday immediately after the full moon following the Spring Equinox.



The name comes from "Eostre", the Goddess in whose honour the Spring Festival was celebrated. It was then given to the Christian church's celebration in honour of the resurrection of Christ.

EASTER MONDAY

Otherwise called "Pasch" Monday, the name is Hebrew, meaning the Jewish Passover. In early England, it was a day of fun and celebrations with sports and recreation, following Easter Sunday.

In Jamaica the solemnity of the Easter season is broken and the day is celebrated with recreational activities.

For this Easter season, as we reflect on these days, let us not forget their true meaning.

were to repent within the forty days and forty nights of Lent through prayer and fasting.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Friday before Easter Sunday, Good Friday, was known as Holy and Great Friday in the Greek church and the Anglo-Saxons called it Long Friday. The reason it is called "Good" is not definitely known; however, there are a few theories. One is that it is the day before the end of the Lenten fast.

It has become traditional in Jamaica to avoid cooking on this day. To light a fire anywhere in the home is thought to add more to the suffering of Christ on the cross.

At 12 noon it is also believed that if the physic nut tree is chopped, its sap will run red instead of white — the cross of Christ is said to have been made from this tree.

Many Christians attend church for a few hours, where they reflect on and mourn the death of Christ.

SECURITY

House approves Shiprider Bill

The House of Representatives recently approved the Maritime Drug Trafficking (Suppression) Act, popularly known as the Shiprider Bill.

The passage of the Bill enforces an agreement between the Governments of Jamaica and the United States to combat maritime drug trafficking in Jamaican waters. The treaty was negotiated on the basis of the full reciprocity of rights and obligations.

Amendments to the Bill include, a provision for Jamaica to waive its right to exercise jurisdiction over a detained Jamaican vessel and authorises the relevant Treaty State to enforce its laws against that vessel, its cargo and persons found on board, other than Jamaican nationals.

HOUSING

NHT making strides in St. Thomas

A total of J\$133.31 million has been spent by the National Housing Trust (NHT) through its Morant Bay branch over the last two years.

A breakdown of the benefits shows that there were 210 build-on-own land loans, 45 home improvements, 33 service lots, 23 open market purchases and three combined mortgages reflecting benefits to more than 1,000 residents.

Over the last four years, the NHT has built 79 units in Mount Pelliers, 285 units in Yallahs, phases one and two, 176 units in Red Hills, and 101 units in East Prospect.

HEALTH

JAMALCO presents J\$121,000 to Lionel Town Hospital



Many hospitals have benefited from private donations.

The Lionel Town Hospital received a cheque for over J\$121,000 from Jamaica Aluminium Company (JAMALCO) on February 18 to help purchase a commercial washing machine.

Public Relations Officer at JAMALCO, Olga Chambers, presented the cheque to Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Beverley Douglas.

AGRICULTURE

Fisheries grant from Japan



Ambassador Le Shan Shing

A grant of J\$105 million for the development of small scale fisheries has been received by the Government of Jamaica from the Government of Japan.

This grant will improve conditions in the fishing industry as well as achieve a balance between fisheries development and protection of Jamaica's marine environment.

EDUCATION

UWI opens Library of the Spoken Word

A new avenue of research into the "Spoken Word" has been made available by the University of the West Indies Library. This facility was officially opened at the Mona Campus of the UWI in February of this year.

The library offers a wide cross-section of lectures, seminars, symposia and oral history on audio cassettes and reel tapes to students, researchers, visitors, and the general public. The concept is the brainchild of Alma Mock Yen, former Head of the Radio Unit at the Caribbean Institute of Media and Communication (CARIMAC). The library was opened by Professor the Honourable Rex Nettleford.

We need to hear from you!

We are developing our mailing list for the Jamaica News Newsletter overseas.

If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in receiving copies, do ask them to write / telephone / fax us at:

- **Toronto**

Jamaican Consulate, 214 King Street West,
Suite #402, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 3S6
Tel: 416-598-3008, Fax: 416-971-6402

- **Washington**

Embassy of Jamaica
1520 New Hampshire Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0660, Fax: 202-452-0081

- **London**

Jamaican High Commission
1-2 Prince Consort Road
London SW7 2BZ
Tel: 011-44-171-823-9911, 011-44 -171-225-2791

- **Miami**

Jamaican Consulate
842 Ingraham Building
25 South East Second Avenue
Miami 33131,
Tel: 305-374-8431, 305-374-8384-5,
Fax: 305-577-4970, 305-374-9674

- **New York**

Jamaican Consulate
767 Third Avenue
New York 10017
Tel: 212-935-9000, Fax: 212-935-7508

- **E-mail**

JIS@jol.com.jm



Special days to remember in April

- WORLD HEALTH DAY – 1

- GOOD FRIDAY – 10

- EASTER MONDAY – 13

- JAMAICA CARNIVAL – 12-18

- EARTH DAY – 22

Clip and keep

Jamaican Consulate General
Jamaica Information Service
767 Third Avenue
New York 10017

Kamala-Jean Gopie
#2201-260 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2N3

